

Appl. No. 10/756,972
Amtd. dated October 22, 2004
Preliminary Amendment

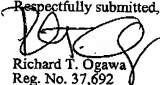
PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are now pending. Claims 1, 5, 7, 10, 16, and 17 have been amended. No new matter has been added to the amended claims. The amendments are not intended to unduly limit the claims, but to more fully describe the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (650) 326-2400 x5423.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard T. Ogawa
Reg. No. 37,692

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
RTO:cc1
60332637 v1